United Nations A/68/7/Add.13

General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 December 2013

Original: English

Sixty-eighth session
Agenda items 134 and 94

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security

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Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/68/L.37

Fourteenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/68/14) in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/68/L.37 on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security. During its consideration of the statement, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarifications, concluding with responses received in writing on 3 December 2013.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/C.1/68/L.37, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a group of governmental experts to be established in 2014 on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, to continue to study the issues of the use of information and communications technologies in conflicts and how international law applies to the use of information and communications technologies by States, as well as the concepts referred to in its operative paragraph 2, and to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the results of the study.

3. The statement submitted by the Secretary-General includes information with respect to the following: (a) the relationship of the requests to the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015 and to the programme of work in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015; (b) the activities by which the requests would be implemented; and (c) the modifications required in the

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programme of work and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

4. The table contained in paragraph 9 of the Secretary-General's statement provides a summary of the total estimated additional requirements, in the amount of $1,439,400, for the biennium 2014-2015, as follows:

(a) Under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, $654,300;

(b) Under section 4, Disarmament, $785,100.

5. According to the statement of the Secretary-General, the Office for Disarmament Affairs would provide the substantive services necessary for the convening of the group of governmental experts. It is envisaged that the group, consisting of 20 experts, will hold a total of four one-week meetings during 2014 and 2015: the first in July 2014 in New York, the second in January 2015 in Geneva, and the third and fourth in April and June 2015, respectively, in New York. The statement further provides that the additional requirement under section 4, Disarmament, relates to the travel of experts ($738,100) and the cost of consultants ($47,000). The Advisory Committee was informed upon enquiry that the cost of travel of experts includes the cost of travel of staff ($7,884). The Committee was further informed that the Secretary-General's proposal to have 20 experts in the group is based on the need to ensure broader and more equitable geographic representation, as well as to address concerns expressed by Member States and avoid the underrepresentation of some regional groups, and that the proposal concerning the venues of the meeting was made by the Secretariat on the basis of past practice.

6. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.1/68/L.37, additional resources in the amount of $1,439,400 would be required under section 4, Disarmament ($785,100), and section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management ($654,300), of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. This would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require appropriation for the biennium.**